

The Hartford News

March 18 – 24, 2021



Where Does the Money Go?

127 million federal dollars are coming to Hartford for education. HPS gets to develop the plan, but residents and educators also have some ideas.

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

In the capital city with its near-tapped out school budget, the recent news that a federal COVID relief aid package has earmarked \$127 million for Hartford's schools is a bright spot. Upon the announcement being made public last week, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez put forth some preliminary plans for allocating those funds that include extending the school day or possibly the school year, and perhaps offering summer school. That may mean a fair amount of those dollars would likely be needed to pay instructors, administrators, and other in-school staff for work done in addition to their usual hours. But when word got out to the public it generated some discussion and opinions on local social media as to what the best use of that "found" money might be, so the Hartford News decided to give the people some space to share their hopes and ideas, and provide readers with some food for thought.

"I'd like to see the funds specifically earmarked for the students and their parents. For example, every household with more than one school-aged child should have a hotspot for each child with their mobile device. This will eliminate sharing the bandwidth on one device. Also, training the parents and students on how to use these devices. Additionally, there are instructors/teachers that are not technologically savvy so they should have professional development training. Additionally, there should be a webpage on the HPS site listing all relevant contact information for school contacts at all schools as well as technology resources so that it is on one site for transparency."

Dr. Mya T. Bowen, MSPA, MBA, Ed. D.

"I hope none of it goes to the already top-heavy salaries in Central Office and I hope they have to account for every penny spent and where exactly it's spent."

Elizabeth O'Leary

"After school programs, upgrading all books to iPads like every other city, trauma training for teachers, sports programs, and upgrading school buildings."

Stephan Palmer, Founder, Director, CEO at Youth on Fire Inc.

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Celebrating Saint Patrick in Song

The 2021 Greater Hartford Saint Patrick's Week Celebration in Downtown Hartford began on Saturday, March 13, and will conclude this Friday, March 19. Live Irish music and presentations on Irish culture and history are being held every evening at 99 Pratt Street (outdoors if weather permits). On Monday, March 15, the music was led by Claudine Langille (above, left) on banjo and guitar, accompanied by Melissa Murray on fiddle, Karen O'Maxfield on bodhran and Jim Bunting (above, right) on guitar and mandolin. You can view the events on AccessTV.org W4-News: <https://www.accessstv.org/w4-news/> or on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/Klnl7GySWH4>. For more information, go to HartfordPublications.com. (Hart photo)

Hartford...Once Upon a Time



In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, Wild Bill Hickok was killed in a saloon in Deadwood, South Dakota, Heinz started selling something called "tomato ketchup" and Mark Twain published "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." 1876 was also the year the National Baseball League was founded. Among the league's eight original teams were the Hartford Dark Blues. Its owner, Morgan G. Bulkeley, was also the first president of the National League. The team played its home games on a field near Wyllys Street. Twain was a frequent speculator. Unfortunately, the Dark Blues moved to Brooklyn for the 1877 season, playing at the the Brooklyn Hartfords. The team officially disbanded following the 1877 season. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford Public Library's Hartford Collection)

NEWS BRIEFS

Learn About Charter Revision Tonight

Hartford City Council will hold a Charter Revision Information Session tonight, Thursday, March 18 at 6:00pm. Every 10 years, changes can be recommended to the City's Charter, which are then put out for a city-wide vote (see story, page 2). Tonight's meeting will be live streamed on www.hpatv.org and the Hartford Public Access Facebook Page. Broadcast on Channel 96 for Comcast/Xfinity, Frontier Channel 6032 GOV. Residents can also interact with the panel by logging on to a Zoom meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/96959628229>

Virtual Town Hall on Federal Funding

Mayor Luke Bronin and the Hartford City Council will hold a virtual town hall on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6 PM to get feedback from residents about the American Rescue Plan that was recently signed into law by President Biden. Go to Mayor Bronin's Facebook page or go to us02web.zoom.us.

Pop-up Food Market Downtown March 27

Mercado Popular, a pop-up food market, will be held next Saturday, March 27, from 12 - 4 pm at 111 Allyn Street in Downtown Hartford. The market will be selling farm fresh produce, including tomatoes, turnips, beets squash, potatoes, garlic, onions, lettuce spinach and peppers as well as eggs, milk, yogurt, specialty bread and much more.

Pop-Up Bookstore Downtown March 28

On Sunday, March 28, The Key Bookstore will host a pop-up book sale on Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford from 12-4 pm. In addition to books, cards and gifts will be for sale from Hartford Prints. The Key is a Black Owned bookstore curated on for the pillars of Afrocentricity, Spirituality, Environmentalism, and Entrepreneurship. Masks are required and capacity will be limited to maintain social distancing. Street parking is FREE downtown on Sunday.

Stowe Center to Resume Tours April 6

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, 77

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CHARTER REVISION: What Changes Will Hartford Need?

A primer on the process

BY DONNA SWARR

At the March 8th City Council meeting, an item appeared that will begin the City Charter revision process. Specifically, the council is mandated to appoint within 30 days from 5-15 electors, only one-third of whom can be currently holding public office, and cannot contain more than a “bare majority” of any one political party. That means the number of the majority is up for discussion. The electors’ role is to determine what changes they will recommend to the existing charter. Lastly, the Charter Revision Commission must submit a draft by September 1st, 2022. Any changes will be included as referendum questions on the November 2022 ballot. The process the commission must follow is outlined in the State’s C.G.S. §7-190, a process is required to take place every 10 years, or even fewer.

To provide you with some historical perspective, until 1947, Hartford was governed by a mayor, a board of aldermen, and a collection of semi-autonomous commissions with oversight over various city departments. The 1947 charter revision eliminated the semi-autonomous commissions, giving authority to a city manager who answered to a nonpartisan city council. Up until 1969, the council member with the most votes became the mayor. The charter then was revised to have partisan council elections and an elected mayor. The mayor’s influence was through coalitions with council members.

A big change in Hartford’s charter took place in 2003. It replaced the council-manager government with the strong mayor system. It established that the mayor’s

term would last four years, have an annual compensation of \$125,000, and it gave the mayor the authority to hire and fire department heads. “Proponents of charter revision said city hall had become so paralyzed under the council-manager government that traditional foes of a charter change... fell in line behind creating a strong mayor.” (Mark Pazniokas: Hartford Courant 11/6/2003.) The other big changes included the addition of two new positions on the school board; it would now have nine members--four elected members and five to be appointed by the mayor. A new planning and zoning authority was created, as well as a three-member Internal Audit Commission. The IAC’s membership would consist one appointed by the city council, one by the city’s elected Treasurer, and one by the ten largest property owners.

A charter revision commission that convened in 2009 wanted to restrict the mayor’s participation on the Board of Education to a non-voting member, and to return to a majority-elected board. In 2009 the charter revision process was not adhered to, and as a result the Secretary of State recommended that they scrap the charter revision process and start over. The council failed to hold a public hearing on the proposed charter revision commission changes. As a result, the proposed charter amendments from that commission never came up for a vote.

Another attempt came in 2013, in which all three proposed changes were defeated in a low-turnout elec-




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Nursing Home Workers Block Traffic for Better Working Conditions

On Thursday, March 11, over 100 long-term care workers and union activists blocked off Farmington Avenue between Broad and Sigourney Streets to call attention to their need for better working conditions, including higher wages and more affordable healthcare. Protesters said they have been at great risk during the COVID-19 pandemic and several displayed photos of co-workers who had died from the virus. The protest was organized by SEIU 1199NE, a union that represents nursing home and other long-term care workers throughout Connecticut. (Hart photos)



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues
Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Nashville North

We agree with the Mayor that, starting this July and on into 2022, Hartford should be busy and fun every day, all around the city.

First, some inexpensive ways to bring joy to residents of Hartford and the surrounding region.

Take more advantage of our assets. Open up the Old State House, the State Library and Museum, the State Capitol and the Governor’s Residence – maybe even Keney Tower and the Travelers Tower – on summer and fall weekends. We’ve all driven by these landmarks, but have we been inside to really explore them? Let’s open them up and promote tours.

Create and promote a program of tours for senior groups from around the region. We have many under-used assets, especially during the day in the summer.

And, use all forms of media (TV, radio, newspapers, social media) to promote coming to Hartford.

Invest in the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz. The city did support it a few years ago, and it is certainly one of Hartford’s signature events. It deserves all the support it can get.

Support the Bushnell Park Carousel and help it develop more activities and special events.

Bring back a program for street musicians (buskers). The city is full of top notch musicians. Pay them a modest fee, let them take tips and sell CDs and let the music play.

Use the Downtown Library’s plaza or the Burr Mall for mini-concerts (and dancing) or outdoor art shows. Find out how to open up Bushnell Plaza and make it a major attraction. This is one of the most

prominent spots in the city, it’s a shame it gets such little use.

Consider reviving the merchant coordinator positions or increase funding to business groups in order to bring more life and activity to commercial areas like North Main Street, Albany Avenue, Farmington Avenue, Park Street, Maple Avenue and Franklin Avenue.

Encourage and support churches to host more tag sales, concerts and other performances and even give tours of their buildings.

However, some recent public policy decisions have made it more difficult to bring more life and vibrancy to the city.

For example, \$45 parking tickets downtown. A friend got one the other day and said, “I’ll never come Downtown again.” How often does this happen? With so many people struggling financially due to the pandemic, a reduction in parking fines would be good public relations.

Another example: the City went against its word to support the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID). When the BID was formed, the City promised significant support. A few years later they took much of it away. The BID needs more support, not less. Downtown needs to be clean, safe and its activities and events well-publicized.

Finally, the MDC was once a major funder of Riverfront Recapture but recently withdrew that funding. It needs to be reinstated. Riverfront has proven its value in making the region a better place to live, play and work. It deserves more support.

OPINION:

Time to Talk the Talk at HPD

BY BERNIE SULLIVAN

A little historical perspective. When I was appointed Chief of the Hartford Police Department in 1982, we had about 340 sworn officers and the Part One crime rate was around 25,000 per year.

Over the next seven years before I retired, with the support of the City Council, the Mayor, and the City Manager, we increased the number of sworn personnel to 500. We were able to fill all foot beats, we instituted the Community Service Officer Position as we began moving to community policing, and also instituted the mounted patrol assigned primarily to all city parks. We totally civilized the communications center and increased its bi-lingual capacity, as well as the records division and property room functions. We also created the position of Clinical Psychologist and a strong Employee Assistance Program. And we had a crisis intervention unit staffed by trained civilians to assist in dealing with individuals with needs for special assistance, as well as domestic violence issues.

None of this was cheap and community policing itself – when done properly – is labor-intensive.

As I see it, most officers are leaving for two reasons: Better pay and benefits, and stronger support for the police in the towns they go to. As a side note, for all the criticism HPD receives, retiring members of the command staff have been selected to be chiefs in other towns, as well as heading the State Police.

While I admittedly am not intimately aware of the inner workings of HPD at the present time, it would seem that the time is ripe for better communication on all sides to clearly understand what is expected going forward and how it is funded and measured!

Bernie Sullivan was Chief of the Hartford Police Department from 1982-1989

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Letters to the Editor

Vaccine Must Go Door-To-Door

I have been involved in the recruitment process for getting people signed up and scheduled for their COVID-19 Vaccine. I am aware of multiple barriers for many in the community; transportation, access to computers and cell phones to have the ability to schedule an appointment. It is time for Hartford to be active and organize a door-to-door process to provide COVID-19 vaccines to the homebound and the most vulnerable with comorbidities. Many other States have done this by partnering with their Health Department, Home Care Agencies-Visiting Nurses Associations, the Department of Aging, the Meal delivery Programs to identify those with physical limitations or compromised immune systems. Spencer Mass- utilized their fire department to go into the homes of people in the neighborhood and administered the vaccine. New York City, Manchester N.H. have also participated in door-to-door vaccinations. There are still too many GAPS that need to be eliminated before we can provide vaccines to all in the community.

It is time for Hartford to be active and organize a door-to-door process to provide COVID-19 vaccines to the homebound and the most vulnerable with comorbidities.

Another strategy is to have a neighborhood van equipped to sign-up and administer the vaccine all in one process. This van could secure people experiencing homelessness, many of whom have underlying medical conditions. We will need to recruit volunteers from all the communities such through churches, corporations and other organizations. We should also include a Community Service Officer for any safety challenges we might have.

This should NOT be a pop-up process, it should be well planned with enough time to communicate, e.g. flyers on every door, schools, announcements and flyers at schools, churches, NRZs, clubs, restaurants, stores, barber/beauty shops and gas stations, as well as announcements in the Hartford Courant, community newspapers, radio and TV, as has been done for voter registration. Perhaps Saturdays and Sundays would be the best times to administer.

Thanks, God Bless and please stay safe.

Carolyn Brooks Burton

Education Funding

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“ I would love to talk about what I'd like to see the money go towards. I unfortunately was forced out of the Hartford Public School system because the teachers didn't receive the support they needed. Classroom sizes were too big and expectations were so beyond unrealistic. I was the PTO president for 3 years and I did this to see if there was something I could do to help, but I horrifyingly realized it was a systemic issue not a school issue. During my son's third grade year I had to realize if we continued down this path my children would be another one of their horrible statistics. The following year I enrolled both of my children in East Granby public schools. I know the pandemic was tragic but I genuinely hope Hartford uses this as a chance to hire more teachers, make smaller classroom sizes, teach a second language starting from pre-k, teach kids things that they'll actually use. But Hartford can't do any of these things if it keeps producing students who can barely even read or do math on grade level. They have to admit to themselves what they're doing is simply not working. It is genuinely disheartening to see it first-hand. I am a product of the Windsor public school system and

I'm a fairly young mom; my son is 10 and I'm 29. I remember 3rd and 4th grade and the things I learned, and in Hartford they're not even there. The school my children attended had nothing-- no basketball team, no soccer--nothing. I was honestly so disgusted with the Hartford Public School system that I enrolled in college in August for political science so that I can help Hartford with its much-needed education reform. We can't just keep sitting back hoping something will change; it's only getting worse.”

Tamara Jackson

“How to do taxes! How to pay off credit cards! Actual life skills!”

Jennifer Lynn

“Use some funds to add summer programs that will employ youth, affordable for parents, and get kids outside doing sports. Hartford lacks this; there are no qualified summer programs. This needs to be run by a university that gives credits for building community sports.”

Lidia Cabello

“Set up a program that gives every student who graduates with honors, free tuition to college.

Jeff Hall Photography

“We need to find a way to retain the

teachers in Hartford-- more competitive salaries for example. Teachers have also been adapting their teaching methods during this pandemic.”

Axtel Xiomara

“I am a parent of a child in HPS and also a teacher at one of the schools. I was disappointed to see that there was not a better plan in place to offer more outdoor learning for the students through the pandemic. On the contrary, there were more restrictions on how much time can be spent outdoors and playgrounds were closed. I would like to see some of that money spent on improving outdoor spaces for schools to use, especially when research shows that outdoor learning is fundamental to the development of the whole child. Also, more opportunities for students to have field trips to nature especially if outdoor space is not available close by.

Anonymous

“Some of the ideas I was thinking of, such as after school programs and summer vacations programs. Perhaps some local college students could assist with these projects. Also, college funds for upper scoring grades students (from freshmen to seniors).”

Wendy Pawlak



Burke's Oasis Opens on Maple Avenue

Dubar Burke (with assistance from Mayor Luke Bronin) cuts the ribbon to officially Burke's Oasis Caribbean and West Indian Restaurant on Wednesday March 3. Looking on are restaurant owners Dexter and Amber Burke, Chef Jackie Hylton and Jada Burke. Dexter Burke is the Archbishop at Walk in the Light Church of God on Garden Street in Hartford. In remarks prior to the ribbon-cutting, he said he wanted the restaurant to “not just warm your belly, we want to warm your soul.” To that end, Burke's will be helping the homeless in the area with food and information on local resources. He is also planning to have an after-school club which will provide food, fellowship and a safe space for local students. Burke's Oasis is open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Saturday, closed Sunday. For more information, go to: <https://burkesoasis.com/>. (Hart photo)

Pre-tests for Free Lifeguard Classes April 3 and 11

The City of Hartford Recreation Department will be offering a free lifeguard training class this spring. Those who complete the class will be qualified to work as lifeguards at local pools. In order to enroll in the course, you must complete a pre-test of swimming skills.

The pre-tests will be held on Saturday, April 3, and Sunday, April 11, at 9 am at the Parker Memorial Recreation Center, 2621 Main Street, Hartford.

During the pre-test, candidates must complete the following to be accepted into the class:

- Must be 15 years old or older when the course begins.
- Must swim 300 yards continuously demonstrating

breath control and rhythmic breathing. Candidates can use the crawl or breast strokes, but swimming on the back or side is not allowed.

- Must tread water for two minutes using only the legs.
- Must complete a swimming test in 100 seconds: Swim 20 yards; dive to a depth of seven to ten feet to retrieve a ten-pound object; swim 20 yards back to the start-point using the backstroke and continuing to hold onto the object; and exit the water without using steps or a ladder.
- Must wear a facemask when entering the rec center.

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Groups Eligible Soon



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INDIVIDUALS AGE 55 AND OLDER

Starting March 19
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Starting April 5
All Individuals Ages 16 and older

Vaccine Eligibility Schedule Accelerated

In an effort to get as many Connecticut residents vaccinated against the COVID-19, Governor Ned Lamont has pushed back the dates on which younger ages groups will be eligible to receive the vaccine against the virus.

Connecticut residents between the ages of 45-54 can now begin scheduling their vaccine appointments this Friday, March 19. Previously this age group was not eligible until March 22.

More importantly, all state residents between the ages of 16 and 44 can now begin scheduling their appointments on Monday, April 5. Previously, individuals between ages 35-44 were not scheduled to be eligible until April 12, and those between ages 16-34 could not schedule and appointment until May 3.

The decision to accelerate the schedule came after the Federal government informed state health officials that it should anticipate receiving a significant increase in supplies of all three federally authorized vaccines (Pfizer,

Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) over the next several weeks.

Governor Lamont said. “Based on our discussions with the federal government regarding vaccine allocation, we anticipate receiving more than 200,000 first doses per week by early April. This allotment, combined with our state’s strong execution over the past several weeks, allows Connecticut to significantly accelerate the schedule so that we can equitably and efficiently vaccinate as many residents as possible. It’s still going to take some time to get the vaccine to everyone who wants it and I urge patience to the greatest extent possible, but over these next several weeks I anticipate that we will have an opportunity to considerably increase the amount administered each day.”

Connecticut continues to rank among the top five states in the nation in the percentage of population that has been vaccinated.

State Warns Against COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

Governor Ned Lamont and Attorney General William Tong are warning Connecticut residents to be on alert for potential scams related to COVID-19 vaccines.

State officials have recently learned of a new scam in which fraudsters, posing as COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers Moderna and Pfizer, sent consumers a “COVID-19 survey” offering rewards for their opinions about the

vaccine. To obtain the so-called reward, consumers are required to provide their credit card information, supposedly for “shipping purposes.” State officials are warning residents not to be fooled – this is a scam that is designed to rip people off for money.

In another scheme, fraudsters sent a letter impersonating the governor’s office that suggests the vaccines are dangerous and directing

consumers to a website that attempts to capitalize on people’s fears and is yet another way for bad actors to scam people out of information and money. The COVID-19 vaccine is medically proven to be safe and effective, and consumers should not visit links that may be set up to steal their information.

Finally, other scammers pose as vaccinators and ask for sensitive information, such as social security numbers and bank information. Consumers will never be asked for this information to receive the vaccine.

State officials are offering the following tips for consumers to protect themselves against vaccine-related scams:

Do not pay anything to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine or trust promotional offers related to the vaccine. Ignore sales ads related to the vaccine. The vaccine cannot be bought anywhere. It is only available at federal and state-approved locations, and is being offered at no cost to anyone.

Beware of unsolicited emails or texts concerning the vaccine, including offers of rewards or payments. While some people may receive emails or texts from their healthcare providers or authorized vaccine providers, those contacts only come after they have signed up for them. If you receive a contact that seems suspicious, consumers can contact their healthcare or vaccine provider.

Do not share personal, financial, or health information with unfamiliar people. Nobody from a vaccine distribution site, healthcare provider, pharmacy, or health care payer alike a private insurance company or Medicare will call, text, or email consumers asking for their Social Security number, credit card number, or bank account number in connection with the vaccine.

If anyone believes they have been the victim of a scam or have been contacted by a scammer, they should contact the Office of the Attorney General at 860-808-5318 or attorney.general@ct.gov.

How to Get Your Vaccine

Make an Appointment

By Phone:

- Multilingual State Line: 877-918-2224, M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.
- Multilingual Hartford Healthcare Line: 860-827-7690, M-F 8 am-5 pm
- Multilingual City Health Dept: 860-757-4830, M-F 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. City is expanding staffing to answer calls.

Online:

- ct.gov/covicvaccine: State of CT: Put your zip code in top corner
- HartfordHealthCare.org/vaccine: Hartford Healthcare (Hartford Hospital):
- TrinityHealthOfNE.org/appointment: Trinity Healthcare (St. Francis Hospital)
- City of Hartford: <https://www.hartfordct.gov>. There is a link at the top of the City of Hartford website to the City Vaccine Interest Online Form.



Ashley Gould from the University of Saint Joseph School of Pharmacy administers the COVID-19 vaccine to Mabel Vega of Hartford at Dunkin Donuts Stadium. (Hart photo)

Where to go for your Vaccine

- **Every Saturday: Dunkin Donuts Stadium, 10 am - 3 pm. Appointment required! Call (860) 757-4830 or go to City of Hartford website and click on Vaccine Registration Form.**
- Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand St., 860-550-7500
- Community Health Center, 76 New Britain Ave., (860) 547-0970
- Community Health Services, 500 Albany Ave., (860) 249-9625
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center, 282 Washington St., (860) 545-9000
- Hartford Healthcare Clinic (CT Convention Center), 100 Columbus Blvd., 860-827-7690
- Hartford Hospital, 85 Seymour St., 860-827-7690
- Parker Memorial Community Center, 2621 Main St.,
- Saint Francis Hospital, 260 Ashley St., 1st Floor
- South End Senior Center, 830 Maple Ave., 877-918-2224
- Walgreens Pharmacy, 1291 Albany Ave.
- Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand St., 860-550-7500
- Walgreens Pharmacy, 161 Washington St., (860) 522-5005
- Wheeler Family Health & Wellness Center, 43 Woodland St., 860-793-3500



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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A continuing series of updates on former winners of SINA awards and scholarships

Julio Concepcion – NSA Winner '94

BY LOGAN SINGERMAN



Above is a picture from September 1994 where Julio Concepcion was recognized in the Hartford Courant for his SINA neighborhood service award. The article mentioned the work he was doing as an elementary school teacher at Betances Elementary School, his volunteering as a commissioner for the Maria Sanchez Little League, and countless other community efforts like starting Hogar Crea, a drug rehabilitation program that could serve Spanish speaking clients. After interviewing Julio, I realized that his efforts could easily have filled the entire article, if not the entire paper. He’s one of those peo-

ple that make you question whether you’re really as busy as you think you are. Julio has a passion for baseball. At the time, he was playing in three different baseball leagues. Julio also has a passion for developing kids and giving to his community. That is why when he was asked to fill the role of commissioner for the Maria Sanchez Little League he said yes, despite his already busy schedule. As commissioner they were the only league to take all of their players to a major league baseball game. One year, all 178

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WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Mary Fields, aka “Stagecoach Mary”

BY DARA A. JOHNSON

Well, here we go again with another month of celebration. After much soul searching, I decided to share this little gem I read about a few years ago to celebrate Women’s History Month. Her name was Mary Fields, also known as “Stagecoach Mary” and “Black Mary.” She was the first black female “Star Mail Carrier” in the United States. She was born in Hickman County, Tennessee in 1832, but this date could be wrong, as records are a little fuzzy as she was born a slave. Her story takes off after the Civil War when she was a free woman of color. She left the south and ended up living in Ohio in a convent where she became a Catholic. She was described as hard drinking, gun toting, quick on the draw and wore men’s clothing. The religious community was quiet and serene, so I can imagine how difficult it must have been for her. Despite it all, Mary performed her duties as groundskeeper, but had many complaints about her rough personality and her habit of cursing. She even tussled with some of the nuns over her wages – behavior that shocked white women who expected blacks to be well behaved and subservient. Through all her difficulties at the convent, she managed to make



friends with Amadeu Dunne, otherwise known as “Mother Superior.” In 1885 Mary decided to move to Montana, where Dunne had previously been assigned to work with the Blackfeet nation building schools. Mary had gotten word that her friend might need her, as she had fallen sick. The west suited Mary quite well, and she was successful in her friend’s recovery. A bigger challenge, however, was softening the rough edges of her personality. As luck would have it, word got back to the Bishop and he had no choice but to dismiss her employ. No

Continued on page 6



“Getting vaccinated protects you, your family, and your community.”

Dr. Reginald J. Eadie,
President and CEO
Trinity Health Of New England



ct.gov/covidvaccine

GET THE
FACTS
ON THE
VAX

SINA’s Where Are They Now?

Continued from page 4

players went to Yankee Stadium and the next year went to Fenway Park. Julio got lunches donated from C-Town and organized transportation. He still has former players who mention this memorable experience to him over Facebook (one team pictured below).

Julio has a vast network of kids whose lives he has impacted. “I am always in touch with them,” he said. “Students going to college are my award.” He proudly told me about a former student who just finished her master’s in psychology at UConn with a full ride scholarship.

In the next breath he described another family whose kids had all just finished up at Trinity College. Julio never did any of this work for recognition. He did it for these greater “awards” that keep having an impact through future generations.

Julio is a firm believer in giving kids positive role models as well as experiences that expand their world. While at Betances, he worked for Edna Negrón, one of his

many mentors. They created a program called El Futuro en Nuestras Manos (the future in our hands) where 25 people mentored 25 kids for nearly a decade. These mentors were lawyers, judges, city council members and other professionals. They shared in Julio’s commitment to invest in our young people.

Edna Negrón was just one of many people Julio mentioned as the network that developed him and worked at his side. He was quick to give credit to his wife for supporting him and making all the work possible. He also pointed to Eugenio Caro, Julio Mendoza, and Juan Fuentes as some of the many people who made a strong impression on his life. He also thanked God for giving him strength through it all. It is no wonder, given Julio’s ease in recognizing others’ contributions that while serving as a teacher he organized, COMAH – Confraternización de Maestros Hispanos- an organization that existed to recognize bilingual teachers and administrators when they were retiring (pictured below).

Julio was born in Cayey, Puerto Rico. He came to the United States to finish his master’s degree and has remained ever since. His father was a school administrator in Hartford so education runs through Julio’s veins. Julio also attributes his passion for giving as something he was born with. The oldest child, he always had to take charge and take care of others. That led to his belief that if you have something to give, give it. Give without expecting anything. When describing this drive, he pointed to the words of Roberto Clemente, one of his heroes. “Any time you have the opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don’t, then you are wasting your time on earth.”

It is clear Julio has taken this to heart, even to this day. At the age of 68 he is still staying active. In 2019 he was named the God Father of the Hartford Puerto Rican Parade. This year on December 31st, he is planning the 10th annual celebration of the life of Roberto Clemente. It is a time to remember Roberto’s accomplishments on and



off the field on the anniversary of the day he died on his way to deliver supplies to victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua. If you are interested in more details or helping to organize the event you can call Alex Mercado, the committee chair at 860.916.6446. In the meanwhile, don’t waste your time. Go make a difference – following in the footsteps of people like Roberto Clemente and Julio Concepcion.



HOUSING INSPECTOR

Imagineers, LLC is a housing service company located in Hartford CT

We are seeking qualified applicants for our Housing Inspector position. This position routinely inspects housing units for program compliance. This position involves preparing written reports; documenting evidence and daily contact with the public; interpreting and explaining regulations; exercising sound professional judgement and problem-solving skills while maintaining effective relationships with residents and property owners and driving between properties. Additionally, the candidate will be required to successfully pass the Housing Inspector training certification requirements within 12 months of hire. For more details on this opportunity and to apply please visit <https://imagineersllc.applicantpool.com/jobs/> or submit resume to dzimber@imagineersllc.com

We offer attractive wages and benefits package including: Medical/Dental, Disability/Life, 401(k) with a Match, 2+ weeks Paid Time Off, Paid Holidays and Mileage Reimbursement

Hartford residents and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

Candidates must have the following qualifications:

- High school diploma and two years of college experience
- Strong communication and organizational skills
- Experience in public housing, Section 8, counseling and case management.
- Knowledge and experience in enforcing codes and ordinances related to housing inspections
- Knowledge of building construction and maintenance
- Ability to effectively communicate solutions of housing maintenance problems to property owner
- Bilingual in English / Spanish strongly preferred
- Valid driver's license with a clean driving record and a fully insured motor vehicle

Stagecoach Mary

Continued from page 4

longer in the convent, she was on her own and set out living a life shocking by 19th century standards; working as a freighter, she took in laundry and did odd jobs to make ends meet. Her rough reputation paid off in 1895 when she secured a contract from the postal service to become a “Star Route Carrier” – an independent contractor who carried mail using a stagecoach donated by her friend, Dunne. As such, Mary was not an employee of the U.S. Postal Service, which did not hire or employ mail carriers for Star Route; they were only responsible for awarding the contracts.

It was a match made in heaven as she got to carry and use not only her rifle, but a revolver as well. She had to protect the mail from thieves and bandits and would not back down from any of them. Although she intimidated would be thieves with her height and tough demeanor, she was loved by locals who praised her generosity and her kindness to children. Mary protected the U.S. mail for eight years; serving two four-year contracts from 1895-1899 and 1899-1903 (she then retired as she was now an old woman).

After she stopped working the community rallied around her and she was given food by the local

restaurant owners as well as some of the other townspeople. Mary Fields stayed true to herself and was the town’s most colorful character. Since she liked smoking, drinking and cussing, she hung out socially in the local bars with men until it was forbidden for women to do so by town ordinance. Stagecoach Mary died in December 1914 in Great Falls, Montana and the story goes that her funeral was one of the largest the town had ever seen.

Fun fact: In the movie “South by Northwest Homesteaders” (1976), Fields was played by Esther Rolle.

Charter Reform

Continued from page 4

tion. The proposed charter revisions would have made the mayor a non-voting, ex-officio member of the BOE and would have expanded the powers and scope of the IAC. Other changes included making the Registrar of Voters office into a non-partisan, professional office; establishing a system for public financing of mayoral, council, and treasurer

campaigns; increasing the salaries of the mayor and city treasurer; proposing cost-of-living increases to the salaries of city council members; giving shared authority to the mayor and council for appointments and confirmations to city boards and commissions; and establishing protocols for the hiring of independent attorneys by the council, BOE, and city treasurer.

The Connecticut Conference of

Municipalities created a Charter Revision Municipal Resource and Service Center Research InfoKit in 2020. It’s intended to be guide “for local officials and residents to review and assess their own city’s processes and procedures, compare those with those of other communities, and reshape how their community is governed.” When the Charter Revision appointments are made, they have a great resource to assist in the process, in addition to the Connecticut General Statute §7-190.

OFFICE SUPPORT CLERK

Imagineers, LLC is a housing service company located in Hartford CT

We are seeking applicants for our Office Support Clerk position. This position will provide general office support including handling heavy telephone and office traffic in connection with our Housing Choice Voucher Program. Additional tasks include front desk activities, typing, filing paperwork and maintaining the file room, as well as delivering and retrieving files from the City of Hartford and other housing agencies. Hartford residents and minorities are encouraged to apply. For more details on this opportunity and to apply please visit <https://imagineersllc.applicantpool.com/jobs/> or submit resume to dzimber@imagineersllc.com

We offer attractive wages and benefits package including: Medical/Dental, Disability/Life, 401(k) with a Match, 2+ weeks Paid Time Off, Paid Holidays and Mileage Reimbursement

Candidates must have the following qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Strong communication and organizational skills
- Some experience in public housing or Section 8 is a plus
- Bilingual in English / Spanish is a plus
- Valid driver's license with a clean driving record and a fully insured motor vehicle

LIQUOR PERMIT

Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I,
ANGELEE BURGOS,
136 FLATBUSH AVE.,
HARTFORD, CT 06106-3835

Have filed an application placarded 03/15/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a GROCERY BEER PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at

450 NEW BRITAIN AVE
HARTFORD CT 06114-1850

The business will be owned by:
ANGELEE BURGOS

Entertainment will consist of:

No Live Entertainment

Objections must be filed by:
04-26-2021

ANGELEE BURGOS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
Dennis Christopher Gordon,
AKA Dennis C. Gordon,
AKA Dennis Gordon
(21-00205)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated March 12, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jovanie Gordon
c/o David R Clemens
Atty David Clemens
41-B New London Tpke,
Glastonbury, CT 06033

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Hubert Ashley Lee
(21-00192)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated March 15, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Francesca Knerr, Esq.,
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Aielette Cornelius
PO Box 320212
Hartford, CT 06112

News Briefs

Continued from page 1

Forest Street, Hartford has announced that its tours will resume on Thursday, April 8. Tours will be available from 12:30-6 pm on Thursdays (last tour 7 pm); 11:30am-6pm on Fridays (last tour at 5 pm); and 8:30 am - 5:30pm on Saturdays (last tour at 4:30pm) New evening hours on Thursdays, convenient online ticketing, best practices in COVID-19 safety, and small tour size all converge to make your visit better than ever. The Stowe Center includes the home of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” one of the most important and influential books in American history. For more information, go to <https://www.harrietbeecherstowe-center.org/>.

Access Health CT Special Enrollment Period Extended to April 15

Due to high demand, Access Health CT (AHCT) has extended the deadline for its Special Enrollment from March 15 to April 15. The Special Enrollment Period is for consumers who are not currently enrolled in coverage through AHCT. Those who enroll before March 16 will begin receiving coverage April 1,

2021; those who enroll before April 15 will begin receiving coverage May 1, 2021. To enroll, you must pay your first month’s premium (monthly payment). Financial help will continue to be available to consumers who qualify. To find out more, go to AccessHealthCT.com or call 1-855-805-4325, Mon. – Fri. 8 AM - 4 PM.

Statewide School Career Fair March 31

The State of Connecticut will host its first annual one-day career school fair, on Wednesday, March 31. The virtual CareerConn 2021, free to attendees, will showcase career tracks and opportunities available through Connecticut’s many independent postsecondary occupational schools. Career-Conn 2021 will be an immersive 3D virtual career school fair with video presentations, virtual exhibit booths, and live one-on-one conversations with advisors. CareerConn 2021, designed as an in-school virtual field trip, with rolling registration—students can log in anytime between 9 am to 4 pm. Representatives from more than 25 occupational schools will be on hand and available to answer questions on the schools’ programs, career paths, admission requirements, the application process, tuition, financial aid, and

more. For details about the fair schedule, Career Track workshops, registration, visit <https://careerconn.org/>.

Library Starts New Chess Club

DIG USA is partnering with Hartford Public Library to teach chess to Hartford students between Grades 9-12. Every student that participates will receive free meals delivered to feed the entire family each week and a tournament official chess set and chess clock along with a bag for the chess pieces. The group meets Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 7-8pm. No experience necessary. Must attend a high school in Hartford. Professional chess coaches. Chess Set and Chess Clock provided. Email scarr@hplct.org for more information.

Colt Park Clean-up March 27

The Friends of Colt Park will hold its first clean-up of the year on Saturday, March 27, beginning at 10 am. Volunteers are asked to meet by the Colt Memorial Statue, near the Wethersfield Avenue entrance opposite Morris Street. Trash-pickers, garbage bags and gloves will be supplied, along with coffee and donuts. Registration is required;

emailswarrrds@comcast.net

Community Group Seeks Intern

Community Solutions (CS), a nonprofit is seeking candidates for an internship. The intern will work full time, 40 hours per week for no more than 10 weeks, starting in early June through mid-August. If the intern’s school does not provide a stipend for internships, then CS will compensate at a rate of \$15/hour. The intern will have access to multiple training and educational opportunities throughout the summer. This Inspiring Places assistant will be based in the Community Solutions’ office in Hartford, CT 2-3 days per week, working remotely the remaining days depending on the task. Some evening & weekend work may be required to assist with events at Swift. Go to community-solutions.breezy.hr/ for more information.

Free Book a Month for Kids

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library book gifting program is now in Hartford! Register any Hartford child under age five and they’ll get a new, age-appropriate book each month for free, plus monthly tips to help them grow into lifelong readers. Visit www.unitedway-inc.org/imagination-library to register your child. Requirements: Your child resides in Hartford, CT (zip codes: 06101, 06102, 06103, 06104, 06105, 06106, 06108, 06112, 06114, 06115) and your child is under the age of five.

Joan Dauber Food Bank on Tower Ave.

The Joan Dauber Food Bank, 675 Tower Avenue (Mount Sinai Hospital Campus of Trinity Healthcare), Hartford, distributes food to those in need on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM and on the 3rd Saturday of the month (March 20) from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Please bring an ID with your full name and address. Families are asked to limit themselves to one food package per month so that there is enough to go around. Call (860) 714-2845 for more information.

Scouts Seeking New Members

Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts Pack 2 and Boy Scouts Troop 2 of Hartford at the Salvation Army on Nelson St. Hartford, CT are back in session. They are seeking new members to their troops, for more info contact Cub Master Luna at (860) 983-5629.

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Part-Time Workers
Handyman and part-time workers wanted. Call 860-803-7260.

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Sewers wanted. Hand or machine, experience needed. Call 860-803-7260.

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Restaurant Help Needed
Nevins Pizza & Bar, 40 John Street, Hartford seeking Bartenders, Kitchen Help and Waitresses. Call 860-461-1669 or 860-461-1095

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Wilson at 860-727-8146.

Room For Rent

Rooms for rent in Hartford’s West End. Utilities included. \$150 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford
This is a spacious 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975-\$850 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

Church Space for Rent
Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor’s office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998.

Rooms for Rent
East Hartford

Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

Rooms for Rent in
Vintage Historic
Building in
Downtown Hartford

Small sleeping rooms. Large windows. Clean, quiet and safe. Located on Asylum Street in Downtown Hartford. On busline. References required. \$150-\$165 weekly. Call 860-985-7999. Text or leave message if no answer.

Apartments for Rent

Large studio & 1-BR. All include heat and hot water, parking, stove & fridge, washer & dryer in basement. Section 8 welcome. No pets, plenty of closet space. Call Imer at 917-681-5785 or Pablo at 860-983-9444.

Room for Rent

Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. \$130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

For Rent

Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

Apartmentos Para Alquiler:
Apartamentos modernos localizados en Hartford. Studios, Uno, Dos, Tres y Cuatro cuartos dormitorios disponibles. Estacionamiento disponible. ** Aceptamos Section 8**. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Para mas informacion por favor llamar al 860-549-3000.

Apartments for Rent
Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms available. Walking distance to shopping, on bus line, off-street parking. Small pets welcome. Section 8 Welcome. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Call 860-549-3000.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Elizabeth Charles
(21-00148)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated March 10, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jillian Charles
405 Lexington Ave., Apt. 2D
Brooklyn, NY 11216

El Informativo Latino

Gobernador Lamont acelera fechas de elegibilidad de vacunación

Lamont estará acelerando el plazo para que las personas se inscriban en las vacunas contra el coronavirus en Connecticut.

A continuación se muestra el nuevo período de tiempo:

- 19 de marzo: la programación se abre para todas las personas de 45 a 54 años
- 5 de abril (provisional): la programación se abre para todas las personas de 16 a 44 años

El estado trabajará con los proveedores y el Departamento de Servicios del Desarrollo para acelerar el acceso de las personas menores de 45 años de mayor riesgo médico durante el mes de abril.

Esto pasa de personas de 45 a 54 que se vuelven elegibles el 22 de marzo, las personas de 35 a 44 se vuelven elegibles el 12 de abril y las personas de 16 a 34 se vuelven elegibles el 3 de mayo.

El gobernador dijo que todas las personas elegibles

en Connecticut que deseen recibir la vacuna deben programar una cita con anticipación.

CT COVID-19 Números y actualización de vacunación

A partir del lunes, la tasa de positividad de COVID-19 en el estado aumentó ligeramente a 2.95% y se reportaron 23 muertes más.

Con un aumento de 26 hospitalizaciones, ahora hay 407 personas en los hospitales de Connecticut con el virus.

El número de muertos es ahora de 7.788, dijeron funcionarios estatales.

Un total de más de 85,500 personas se sometieron a la prueba del virus desde el viernes y 2,525 pruebas dieron positivo.

Los funcionarios estatales dijeron que casi 1,4 millones de personas han recibido dosis del virus en Connecticut. De ese número, 918,741 son primeras dosis y 496,006 son segundas dosis. *By Iris Rodriguez*



Connecticut aliviará restricciones a viajeros esta semana

Al final de la semana, Connecticut dará un gran paso hacia la normalidad, ya que se eliminarán muchas restricciones comerciales y mandatos de viaje.

Para cualquiera que viaje hacia y desde el estado, este próximo viernes será el comienzo de que las cosas se vean un poco diferentes.

Parte del retroceso de las restricciones por parte del gobernador Ned Lamont incluye el levantamiento del mandato de advertencia de viaje del estado. Convertirá lo que era un requisito en una recomendación, lo que significa que ya no se requerirá que los

pasajeros proporcionen una prueba de COVID-19 negativa o una cuarentena durante 10 días después del viaje.

Esta es una noticia bienvenida ya que la Autoridad Aeroportuaria de Connecticut dijo que el Aeropuerto Internacional Bradley recibe un 70% menos de viajeros que los niveles de tráfico previos a la pandemia.

"La CAA está complacida con las revisiones del gobernador al aviso de viaje, y creemos que esto preparará el escenario para una mayor recuperación en el aeropuerto Bradley", dijo el director ejecutivo

Kevin Dillon en un comunicado.

Resulta que algunos viajeros se sienten igualmente esperanzados.

"Me preocupaba tener que estar en cuarentena y estar en el hotel cuántos días tenías que quedarte", dijo Gary Thompson, de California. "Va a ser más fácil y tal vez habrá más gente que empezará a volar".

Los funcionarios de Bradley dijeron que planean mantener su sitio de prueba COVID-19 original en su lugar por ahora y el Departamento de Salud Pública del estado lo reevaluará en las próximas semanas.

By Iris Rodriguez

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Por favor, mire en "Reuniones por Pueblo" para la información más actualizada. Para más horarios de reuniones o más información visita la página web o llámenos al 1-888-8ALANON (1-888-825-2666)

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